

Auckland Conservation Board

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

Annual Report 2022-2023



Cover photo: Auckland Conservation Board, from left Rahul Chopra, Gael Ogilvie, Kate Waterhouse, Achyut Aryal, Robert Bruce, Shane Lavery, Nicola MacDonald, Mervyn Kerehoma, Auckland Zoo, April 2023.

Photographer: John Galilee

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Tāmaki Makaurau
Herenga waka
Herenga Tangata
He waka eke noa
Mai i ngā wai rere
a Topuni tae noa ki te
mahana o Pukoru
Kainga ngā ika katoa

Annual Report of the
Auckland Conservation Board
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

For the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

*Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O
Aotearoa pursuant to section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987*

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Edward Ellison
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6143

Hīkina te mana o te Taiao Oranga,

Hai taketake matua ki a tātou kātoa Ko te mauri o te Taiao te āria matua ka arahi i ō tātou whakaaro waihanga.

Ko te Taiao ka whiriwhiria i ō tātou oranga kātoa, Mai te mahana ō Ranginui

mai ngā haurere ō Tāwhirimātea, mai ngā waiawa, waimoana ō Tangaroa, mai te whenua ō Papatuanuku,

he whaipanga ā Wairua, ā Hinengaro, ā Tīnana mo te kātoa mo ngā tamariki ō Haumiatiketike raua ko Tanemahuta.

Mauri Ora!

Uplift the prestige of the Living Environment,

A priority for all The life essence of the environment guides our creative interpretation.

The environment binds the life threads of all living beings, From the warmth of Ranginui from the breeze of Tāwhirimātea, from the waters of Tangaroa, from the earth of Papatuanuku,

a spiritual, intellectual, physical nourishment for all children of Haumiatiketike and Tanemahuta.

Tēnā koe Edward

I submit, in terms of section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987, the annual report of the Auckland Conservation Board (the Board) for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The Conservation Act requires that the Board report each year to the New Zealand Conservation Authority on its operations.

I am pleased with the achievements of the Board during the year. As this annual report demonstrates the Board was able to progress many elements of our work plan despite the relatively small resource available to support us.

I was particularly pleased with the Board's development of its understanding of Te Ao Māori and Treaty issues during the year. A highlight was a joint noho wananga attended

by members of Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board and the Auckland Conservation Board at Te Hana, during which a range of issues were discussed including conservation management planning and managing the effects of climate change.

Another highlight during the year was the Government's continuing work to implement *Revitalising the Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan*. The Board submitted on proposals to create 19 new marine protected areas in Tikapa Moana/Te Moananui-ā-Toi/the Hauraki Gulf and on a draft fisheries plan for the Gulf. The Board holds immense concern for the environmental health of the Hauraki Gulf and all the species that rely on it, including unique taonga species such as our seabirds. The discovery that the invasive seaweed *Caulerpa* has been spreading in the Hauraki Gulf has been distressing and adds to the other pressures the Gulf is facing. The Board will continue to focus on the Hauraki Gulf and protection of our precious biodiversity in the year ahead.

No reira

E noho ora mai

Nicola MacDonald
Chairperson
Auckland Conservation Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the thirty second Auckland Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (**Authority**) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Auckland Conservation Board (**Board**) submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (**Department**), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**). Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act. The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have functions under the National Parks Act 1980, but there are no national parks within the Board's district.

2. ROHE

The Auckland Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 2,430,884 hectares. This area extends from the west coast to the east coast in the narrowest part of New Zealand. The entrance to the Kaipara Harbour marks the north-western corner of the region and Mangawhai Heads marks the north-eastern point. In the south-west, the boundary follows the north bank of the Waikato River, and the south-eastern boundary is on the Firth of Thames at Pūkoro/Miranda. The Board's district also currently includes Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf as well as the Kermadec Islands, located 800-1,000km northeast of the North Island.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit. with respect to protected species.

Public conservation land and waters make up 44.97% of all the Board's total district. This consists of:

- 36,727 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 336,858 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals

- 729,606 hectares of Marine Reserves, including the 716,509 ha Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve.

These areas constitute approximately 8.38% of all public conservation areas in New Zealand. Part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park lies within the Boards' jurisdiction.

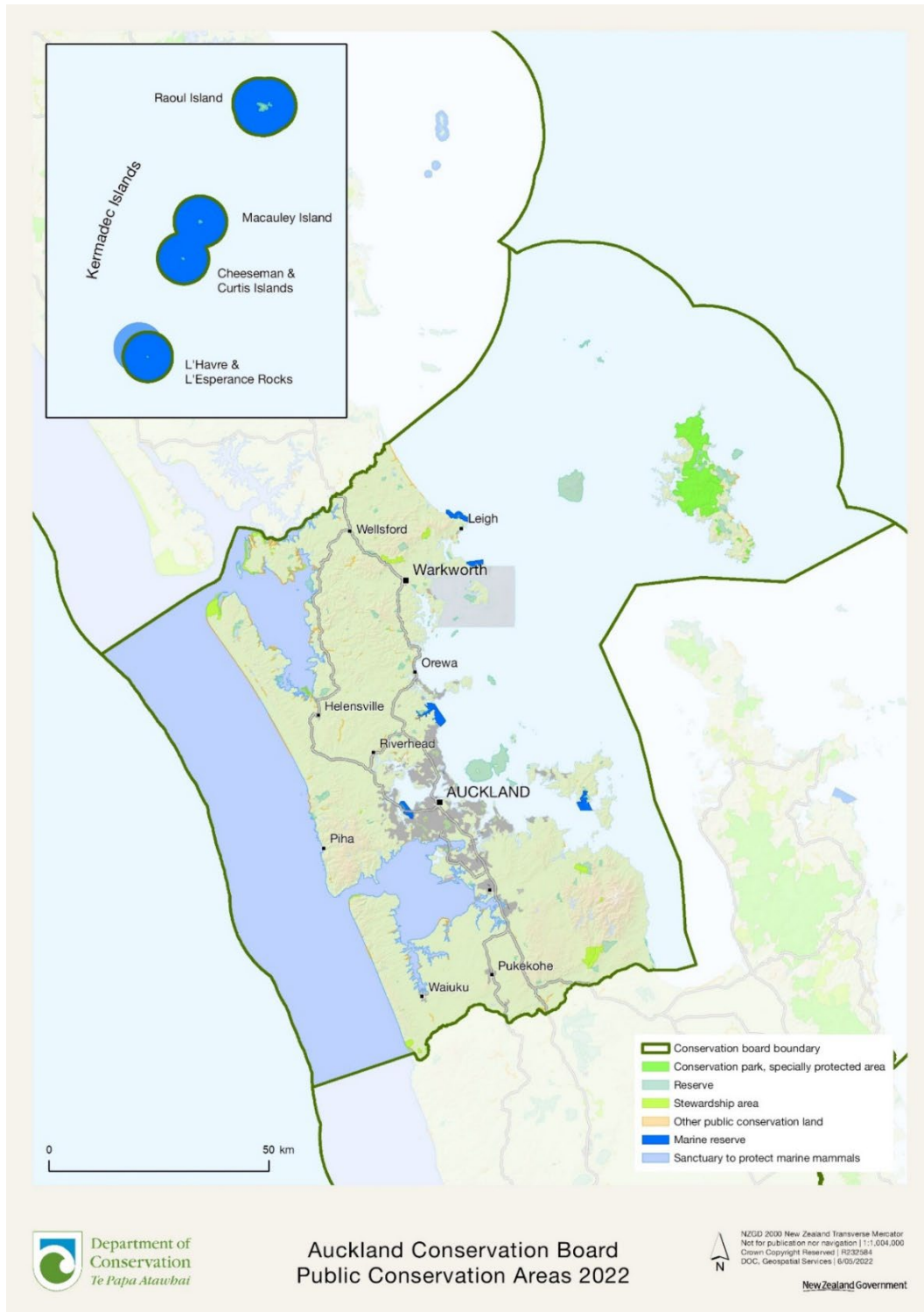


Figure 1. Auckland Conservation Board Jurisdiction

2.1 Tangata whenua

The Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region has a strong and varied iwi landscape. 19 iwi groups have recognised interests in the region:

- Ngāti Manuhiri
- Ngāti Maru*
- Ngāti Pāoa*
- Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea
- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki*
- Ngāti Tamaoho*
- Ngāti Tamaterā*
- Ngāti Te Āta*
- Ngāti Wai
- Ngāti Whanaunga*
- Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara*
- Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei*
- Te Ākitai Waiohua*
- Te Ahiwaru Waiohua
- Te Kawerau ā Maki*
- Te Patukirikiri*
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua*
- Te Uri o Hau
- Waikato-Tainui

13 iwi, indicated by *, are represented by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the Tāmaki Collective), which signed the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Deed with the Crown in 2012.

2.2 Conservation features of the area

The Board's district is a unique one in that it comprises the highly urbanised environment of the Auckland metropolitan area with one third of New Zealand's population, as well as extensive rural areas, remote offshore islands and marine environments. The Board recognises the importance of making conservation real for the 1.6 million people living in Auckland and, notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19 on international and domestic tourism, delivering a first-class conservation experience for visitors to Auckland each year.

The Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland region encompasses areas of very significant European historical importance as well as areas of ecological, natural, and amenity value. They include the Firth of Thames, Kaipara Harbour, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island, the Mokohinau island group, Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Rakitū, Tiritiri Mātangi and Motuora, and the inner Gulf Islands including Rangitoto, Motutapu and Te Motu-a-Ihenga/Motuihe, Mansion House on Kawau Island and the coastal defence installations at Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter on Waiheke Island. The Department manages about 60% of 28,000ha

Aotea/Great Barrier Island, which is approximately 40% of all public conservation land in the region.



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board members receiving a briefing about the 1880's era Fort Takapuna from Brooke Jamieson, Regional Heritage Advisor, Department of Conservation Auckland, September 2022.

Photographer: John Galilee

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to protected species. The marine environment is an especially important part of the Board's district and areas of interest, and its national significance was recognised by its declaration in 2000 as the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

The Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-ā-Toi contains 40 pest-free sanctuaries and is a stronghold for a huge number of indigenous species found nowhere else in the world, including threatened seabirds, shorebirds, marine mammals, fish and marine invertebrates.

The Board's area includes five marine reserves: Cape Rodney to Okakari Point (New Zealand's first marine reserve at Leigh), Motu Manawa/Pollen Island (in the inner Waitematā Harbour), Long Bay-Okura, Te Matuku (south western Waiheke Island), and Tāwharanui.

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- Aotea Conservation Park - 12,896.05 ha
- 85 scenic reserves - 6,735.54 ha
- 13 historic reserves - 307.22 ha
- 38 recreation reserves - 3,335.35 ha
- 68 stewardship areas - 4,794.85 ha
- 223 marginal strips - 948.58 ha
- 6 marine reserves - 719,606.16 ha
- 1 marine mammal sanctuary - 338,096.97 ha

2.3 Conservation issues in the area

Approximately 7.59% of all public conservation land in Aotearoa lies within the region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- The need to connect more Aucklanders with nature and to provide sufficient infrastructure and facilities to safely support access to conservation land for 1.6m Aucklanders and thousands of domestic and international visitors to Tāmaki Makaurau.
- The protection and management of the many threatened species and ecosystems in the region, due to destruction of habitat and the impact of development. While a number of threatened species have populations on pest free islands in the Hauraki Gulf or within mainland sanctuaries, there are many more species that do not have enough management attention. Many marine and freshwater species in particular are under huge pressure and require better regulatory protection.
- The risks to indigenous species and ecosystems from the effects of climate change. The Board has particular concern for those species that are already threatened and for which climate change will exacerbate adverse trends, and for those ecosystems that are limited in geographic scale and vulnerable to the changes that climate change will bring.
- Understanding how to give effect to the aspirations of mana whenua in relation to conservation, and to give full effect to Treaty settlements, including in particular, the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan and the development of a fit for purpose Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (also see Section 7.0).
- Ensuring that the resource management system and related decisions does not further degrade important ecosystems or erode populations of threatened species and their habitats - for example by opposing the continuation of sand mining off Pākiri beach and a proposed landfill at Wayby Valley in the upper Hotoe catchment.
- Supporting the goals of the New Zealand Predator Free 2050 strategy. In the short to medium term the Board is concerned about how it can support the communities on inhabited islands such as Kawau, Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier to work towards becoming predator free.

- Protecting and enhancing access to the large number of heritage sites that are located on public conservation land within the region that are not being actively managed. There is a disproportionate lack of resources for heritage work in Auckland, and for providing high quality interpretation so visitors can understand the stories related to those sites and their importance.
- Restoring Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-a-Toi/the Hauraki Gulf. Over 23 years “State of the Gulf” reports published by the Hauraki Gulf Forum have tracked an ongoing decline in the health of the Gulf, and widespread public concern about its ecological condition and support for efforts to restore the mauri of the Gulf. It considers that the Government’s “Revitalising the Gulf” is a starting point but working towards the goals of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, for at least 30% of the Gulf under some form of marine protection, as well as the removal of trawling and dredging, measures to preserve depleted marine species such as koura, scallops and paua, and the protection of seabirds.

3. FUNCTIONS

3.1 Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, and the review an amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance
- 5) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 7) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

3.2 Board power under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may –
 - i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - ii. Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.

- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board’s functions.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The process of appointment ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge contribute to the advice provided and decisions made by the Board.

Board members are appointed for 3-year terms and may be re-appointed, unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member’s term. There were 11 Board members for the reporting year. Nicola MacDonald was elected Chairperson in February 2021 and continued in this role during the 2022/2023 year. Kate Waterhouse was elected Deputy Chairperson in June 2023.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 (* denotes that the member resigned during the year):

Board Member	Area	Term start	Term end
Dr Achyut Aryal	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2025
Robert Bruce	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2023
Rahul Chopra	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2025
Natalie Devery*	Auckland	01 July 2021	26 July 2022
Nerissa Henry	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2023
Shane Lavery	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 June 2024
Nathan Kennedy*	Auckland - Marutūāhu rōpū	01 October 2014	30 September 2022
Mervyn Kerehoma	Auckland - Ngāti Whātua rōpū	01 July 2020	30 June 2023
Nicola MacDonald	Auckland	01 July 2018	30 June 2024
Gael Ogilvie	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 June 2025
Kate Waterhouse	Auckland/Great Barrier Island	19 November 2019	30 June 2024

4.1 Members profiles

DR ACHYUT ARYAL: Dr Aryal offers excellent diversity of perspective from his experiences working and studying abroad, having worked and researched extensively on Nepalese methods of conservation. He is the CEO of CC Training Academy, an Associate

with Massey University, and holds other senior roles with the University of Sydney. Dr Aryal also has varied and significant experience, particularly in academia in relation to species and biology conservation.

ROBERT BRUCE: Robert offers knowledge and experience of the recreation and tourism sectors, as a current tourism operator and guiding concessionaire. He has co-ordinated conservation activities such as tree planting and beach clean ups around Auckland. Robert also has wide experience in governance, strategy, and business leadership.

RAHUL CHOPRA: Rahul is a Sustainability and Climate Action Consultant and provides expertise in issues relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainable environmental management. He is experienced in public policy, communications, and stakeholder relations, and in developing transformative outcome-based strategic guidance, as well as specialist scientific and technical advice. Rahul is currently a Board Member of Pest Free Kaipatiki Restoration Society, and Principal Consultant, Forum Director, and Editor of New Zealand Sustainability & Policy Leaders Forum.

NATALIE DEVERY: Natalie brings a legal background and a keen interest in environmental and human rights law. She is interested in environmental protection, and skilled in legal research and drafting. Ms Devery is Te Atiawa – Tainui and has an inherent understanding of the Māori world view.

NERISSA HENRY (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Takoto, and Ngāti Awa, and Cook Islands Māori): Nerissa has extensive experience working in waste minimisation and environmental initiatives. She brings experience and knowledge of community conservation, community engagement, cultural competency, and governance to the board. Nerissa is a current Local Board member and sits on the Tamaki Estuary Environmental Forum and the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority. She has deep knowledge of kaitiakitanga and the Treaty.

SHANE LAVERY: Shane is an Associate Professor at the university of Auckland and offers over 40 years' experience in marine and terrestrial biological conservation research. He has extensive knowledge of biodiversity and has served on several advisory boards.

DR NATHAN KENNEDY (Ngāti Whanaunga, Marutūāhu, and Ngāti Hei): Nathan is nominated by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau / Marutūāhu rūpū. Nathan is a Treaty negotiator for Ngāti Whanaunga, GIS (geographic information systems) analyst, and was environment officer for Ngāti Whanaunga for over 15 years. He is currently engaged as the senior Māori heritage technical specialist within Auckland Council's Chief Planning Office. He holds a PhD in Geography.

MERVYN KEREHOMA (Ngāti Whātua o Ōrakei and Te Rarawa): Mervyn is nominated by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau / Ngāti Whātua rūpū. He has experience in cultural engagement and as a relationship liaison. He has knowledge of ecology restoration planning, pest management and biodiversity monitoring.

NICOLA MACDONALD (Ngāti Rehua, Ngāti Wai, Te Rarawa, Te Atiawa, and Ngāti Maru ki Taranaki): Nicola is a current member of several governance bodies, including the Hauraki Gulf Forum and the Māori Women's Welfare League. She has experience in leading environmental programmes such as the Restore Rakitū and Bring Back Kōkako projects.

GAEL OGILVIE: Gael is the Director of Nature's Grace Aotearoa. She has extensive governance experience, serving on a number of Boards and Steering Groups concerned

with environmental sustainability. She is currently a Board member of the NZ Ecolabelling Trust.

KATE WATERHOUSE: Kate is an experienced business and conservation leader. She is a writer and consultant with strategy, facilitation and change experience across the public and private sector in New Zealand and globally. Kate advocates for a collaborative approach to biodiversity and ecosystems restoration and is Chair of the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust, a member of the Tū Mai Taonga Steering Committee (Aotea) and a trustee of the Hauturu Supporters Trust. She gained a Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Auckland in 2022.

5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

The Board held 5 meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board. The 15 February 2023 meeting was cancelled at short notice due to Cyclone Gabrielle.

Meeting date	Location/Venue
13 July 2022	Clendon Community House, Clendon Park, Auckland
21 September 2022	A12 Barracks, Fort Takapuna Recreation Reserve, Narrow Neck, Auckland
21 November 2022	Te Hana Te Ao Marama Māori Cultural Centre, Te Hana
15 February 2023	Cancelled
19 April 2023	New Zealand Centre for Conservation Medicine, Auckland Zoo, Western Springs, Auckland
21 June 2023	Maungakiekie - Tāmaki Local Board offices, Panmure, Auckland

The Board also held 5 workshops during the year to focus on specific matters. The workshop on 22 November 2022 was held jointly with Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board.

Workshop date	Location/Venue
10 August 2022	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
12 October 2022	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
22 November 2022	Te Hana Te Ao Marama Māori Cultural Centre, Te Hana
15 March 2023	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
24 May 2023	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland

5.1 Agendas

The Board hosted and heard from one non-Departmental speaker at its public meetings:

- Mace Ward, Deputy Group Recovery Manager, Auckland Council, presented to the Board about the impacts of the severe weather events experienced in the first months of 2023, and Auckland Council's plans for recovery (21 June 2023 meeting).

Department staff attended the Board's public meetings throughout the year. Presentations included:

- Brooke Jamieson, Senior Heritage Advisor, Auckland, presented to the Board about how the Department manages and prioritises its heritage work (21 September 2022 meeting).
- Rebecca Rush, Operations Manager Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, presented to the Board about the impacts of severe weather events experienced in the first months of 2023 on biodiversity, visitor infrastructure and heritage in the region (19 April 2023 meeting).
- Suliana Teasdale, Technical Advisor Threats, provided an update to the Board about the Department's work on kauri dieback disease and myrtle rust (21 June 2023 meeting).
- Jamie Fowler, Manager Biodiversity System Policy, presented to the Board about progress with changes to conservation legislation (21 June 2023 meeting).

The agendas and minutes from all Board public meetings can be found on the Board's webpage.

Board workshops are not open to the public and minutes of workshops are not kept. The Board received several presentations from Departmental staff at its workshops, including one on a proposal to partially review all conservation management strategies to address issues relating to biking on public conservation land (15 March 2023 workshop). The Board had an insightful discussion about Treaty settlements with the former Chief Crown Negotiator Mike Dreaver and received a presentation from Auckland Council staff about their planning for implementation of the National Policy Statement: Freshwater (both during 24 May 2023 workshop).

5.2 Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region. The Board undertook short field visits in association with several of its public meetings.

- Brooke Jamieson, Senior Heritage Advisor, Department of Conservation, Auckland, guided the Board through the Fort Takapuna Historic Reserve (21 September 2022).
- Richard Gibson, Head of Animal Care & Conservation, Auckland Zoo, guided the Board through the zoo, with a focus on endangered New Zealand species (19 April 2023).

A planned field trip to the Noises Islands in December 2022 was cancelled due to bad weather.



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board, from left Rahul Chopra, Richard Gibson (Auckland Zoo), Gayathri Govindarajulu (DoC), Kate Waterhouse, Shane Lavery, Mervyn Kerehoma, Nicola MacDonald, inspecting Archey's frog enclosures, Auckland Zoo, April 2023.

Photographer: John Galilee

5.3 Members' attendance 2022/23

	Meetings	Fieldtrips (total o)
Dr Achyut Aryal	3	0
Robert Bruce	4	0
Rahul Chopra	4	0
Natalie Devery*	0	0
Nerissa Henry	3	0
Shane Lavery	4	0
Nathan Kennedy*	2	0
Mervyn Kerehoma	4	0
Nicola MacDonald	5	0
Gael Ogilvie	5	0
Kate Waterhouse	5	0

6. MAHI

6.1 Board Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the Board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Board. Committees that were active during the reporting period, and members involved in those committees included:

- **Communications:** the purpose of this committee was to co-ordinate the Board's public communications, in accordance with the Board's Communications Plan that had been adopted in the 2020/2021 year. During the year the Board posted regularly on its Facebook page (also see section 8.5, Community Visibility).

Members: Nicola MacDonald, Gael Ogilvie, Robert Bruce

Concessions: the purpose of this committee was to assess applications for concessions that are referred to the Board under its agreed triggers and to provide advice to the Department. It also leads the Board's work on providing advice to the Department on other statutory proposals referred to the Board. During the reporting year the Board's further comments were sought on an application from the Tamaki Yacht Club to lease a building on the Bastion Point Recreation Reserve. Their comments were also sought on two land exchange proposals, and a proposal for a reduction in the width of a marginal strip.

Members: Kate Waterhouse, Natalie Devery*, Nathan Kennedy*, Mervyn Kerehoma, Nerissa Henry

6.2 Special events

The Board did not hold or attend any special events during the year.

6.3 Training for members

The Board used several of its workshops during the year as opportunities to learn about aspects of their role and responsibilities, including Te Ao Māori, Treaty settlements, and conservation management planning.

7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

7.1 Annual Work Plan

After receiving its Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation, the Board sets out its work plan for the upcoming year. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

During the first part of the year the Board revised its Work Plan in response to the Minister's priorities in her Letter of Expectation and to address matters that the Board also wished to focus on. The final Work Plan was submitted to the Minister in April 2023. The Board's five strategic priorities, which were first adopted for the 2021/2022 year, were:

- Taonga Tuku Iho - biodiversity.
- Whakamana Te Tiriti o Waitangi – giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Mahi Kaupapa – statutory functions.
- Communications and advocacy.
- Wāhi Hononga - cultural heritage.

7.2 Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Auckland CMS was approved in 2014. The Board has received regular reports from the Department on the implementation of the CMS, with a number of the reports focussing on a different theme at the request of the Board. Themes reported on during the reporting year were biodiversity and heritage. A consolidated report for all themes was also provided.

Members were satisfied overall with the progress made and the range and amount of work completed. However, they also noted concern that there are a significant number of milestones related to work that is yet to be commenced or is not being completed within the timeframes indicated in the CMS.

The Board notes that the CMS term was to 2024 and consider that it is no longer fit for purpose. The Board has provided significant feedback to this effect through its submissions on the proposals to amend the conservation management planning provisions of the Conservation Act, and during other review processes including the recent proposal for a partial review of all CMSs to address biking. The Board has noted the success of the Te Hiku CMS process and awaits next steps to ensure the Auckland CMS can be reviewed in a timely fashion.

In the 2019/2020 year the Board developed “supplementary milestones” for a small number of parts of the CMS, to better define how to measure and monitor progress in those areas.

7.3 Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

The Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island CMP was approved in 2017. It was developed by the Board in conjunction with the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and was an important part of redress for Ngāti Manuhiri under their Treaty settlement. During the 2021/2022 year the Board received a presentation from Terrance (Mook) Hohneck, Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, about the CMP. He described how the CMP was developed and what the CMP has meant for improving how the island is managed and for Ngāti Manuhiri's aspirations.

The Board did not receive formal reporting on progress of implementation of the CMP during the reporting year. Nicola MacDonald, Chair of the Board, was Acting Chief Executive of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust during the year and in that capacity worked closely with the Department on monitoring and implementation of the CMP. The

Board did request advice from the Department about the adequacy of biosecurity surveillance on the island.

7.4 Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan (the Motu Plan)

The Board was again disappointed that another year passed without any progress to begin development of a Conservation Management Plan for the inner motu/islands of the Hauraki Gulf (ie. Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe/Te Motu-a-Ihenga). The Motu Plan is a requirement under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014. It is to be developed and approved by the Board in conjunction with the Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust, which represent the interests of the 13 iwi that comprise the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective. The Motu Plan is also an important milestone in the Auckland CMS.

Despite the Board’s advocacy about the importance of the Motu Plan, no progress was achieved in the reporting year. Resolving the resourcing issues that are behind the delay are beyond the Board’s scope of influence at this time.

8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed a member to liaise with one key group:

Board member	Organisation/Group/Agency
Shane Lavery	Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Kate Waterhouse held an informal liaison relationship with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee:

8.1 Board and Authority liaisons

The Board holds a liaison relationship with neighbouring conservation boards. Liaison roles for the reporting year were held by:

- **Kate Waterhouse** – liaison to Northland Conservation Board
- **Nathan Kennedy*** – liaison to Waikato Conservation Board

The New Zealand Conservation Authority has a liaison member with the Board to facilitate communication. Dr Aroha Mead of Auckland was the Authority’s liaison for the reporting year. The Authority liaison normally attends Board meetings, and reports to the full Authority on matters raised, however the liaison member was unable to attend any Board meetings during the year.

8.2 Advice to the Department

The Board provided formal written advice to the Department on the following issues:

- Proposals for two land exchanges involving public conservation land near Dome Valley (7 July 2022, 20 September 2022).
- An application from the Tamaki Yacht Club to lease a building on the Bastion Point Recreation Reserve (24 November 2022).

8.3 Submissions

The Board advocated its interests during the reporting period through a number of submissions, available to read on its webpage:

- Marine protection proposals for Tīkapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf (28 October 2022).
- Draft guidance for identifying habitats of particular significance for fisheries management (18 November 2022).
- Protection and management of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (30 November 2022).
- Draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan (3 March 2023).
- Draft Auckland Council budget proposals for 2023/2024 (28 March 2023).
- Review of seabird mitigation measures for the surface long lining fleet (11 May 2023).
- Draft advice from the Climate Change Commission to inform the Government's second Emissions Reduction Plan for the period 2026-2030 (20 June 2023).

Under the Resource Management Act the Board participated in the appeal process in opposition to a proposed new regional landfill planned for a rural site in the Wayby Valley, in the headwaters of the Hoteo river. The Board also appeared at an Auckland Council hearing in opposition to an application for mining sand offshore from Pakiri.

8.4 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Auckland region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

The Board did not receive any requests from organisations or members of the public to speak during the Public Forum at any of the year's meetings. The Board expressed concern about the lack of awareness of the Board's role among the public and the challenges of connecting with the public to raise awareness.

The Board invited representatives from a community organisation to present at one of its meetings:

- Te Pu-a-nga Maara, who are a collective of rangitahi/Māori youth from three marae in South Auckland. They spoke about their project which uses mātauranga Māori in their work to restore the environment (13 July 2022 meeting).

The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

8.5 Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website, and via the quarterly Conservation Board Newsletter. The Board also maintains a Facebook page on which it posted about items of interest during the year.

It is an objective of the Board to improve its public visibility and its effectiveness as a channel for the conservation concerns of the community. However, the Board is allocated minimal funds for operations and has no dedicated communications resources. The Board considers this gap to be an area that the Department needs to address if it wishes to improve the Board's performance and outcomes in Tāmaki Makaurau.

8.6 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the Auckland Council, which is a unitary authority for the Auckland Region and shares the same terrestrial boundaries as the Department's Auckland Operations Region. Many of the regional issues in which the Board is interested require collaboration with Auckland Council, or individual Local Boards.

During the year, the Board met with officers of Auckland Council to hear about their work related to the implementation of the National Policy Statement: Freshwater in the region, and about recovery from the severe weather events experienced in the first months of 2023. The Board submitted on Auckland Council's draft proposals for its 2023/2024 budget and presented on its submission at a hearing.

Members also hold relationships with their own Local Boards and with Council officers, facilitating communication on specific issues.

8.7 Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board welcomes opportunities to meet with representatives of iwi to understand the perspective of mana whenua on conservation issues in the region.

During the year the Board held one meeting at the Te Hana Te Ao Marama Māori Cultural Centre in Te Hana, which was constructed by Te Uri o Hau. Representatives of Te Uri o Hau shared cultural stories relating to the site with the Board.

The Board supported Ngāti Manuhiri in opposition to the applications to mine sand off Pākiri beach.

9. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$330, and other Board members receive a daily meeting fee of \$250.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank Lucy Holder, Gayathri Govindarajulu and Annwyn Buchanan and who undertook the role of Board Support Officer for periods during the year. The Board is grateful to John Galilee for his unwavering support of the Board in the course of the year through multiple changes in support staff.



Photo: Northland and Auckland Conservation Board members, accompanied by DoC staff, outside marae at Te Hana Te Ao Marama Maori Cultural Centre, November 2022.

Photographer: John Galilee

Auckland Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Work Programme overview

This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 19 July 2022. It is structured in three parts, namely:

- **Part A: Regional Work Programme**
Planned Board activities to meet statutory requirements and act on regional advocacy priorities:
 1. Taonga Tuku Iho / Biodiversity
 2. Whakamana Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
 3. Mahi Kaupapa / Statutory Functions
 4. Communications and Advocacy
 5. Wāhi Hononga / Cultural Heritage

- **Part B: General Expectations**
Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:
 6. Mahi ki te Mahi / Working with the Department of Conservation
 7. Mahi Kotahitanga / Working with other Conservation Boards and related groups
 8. Ohotata Āhuarangi / Addressing the Climate Crisis

- **Part C: Risks and Opportunities**
 9. Issues from the Board's perspective
 10. Opportunities for conservation growth

Status indicator

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started and is ongoing
	Not started yet

1

Taonga Tuku Iho / Biodiversity

The ability and capacity of te taiao (nature) to sustain and maintain whole living systems, whakapapa ecosystems and regenerate its own mauri, while contributing to the mauri of tangata and taonga tuku iho is paramount.

Kaihautu: Mervyn Kerehoma, Shane Lavery

Rōpū tautoko: Shane Lavery, Kate Waterhouse, Nicola MacDonald

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Address Auckland’s declining indigenous biodiversity
- Improve the protection and regeneration of marine habitats and ecosystems
- Address restoration of freshwater ecosystems and indigenous freshwater fish

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advocate for the prioritisation of indigenous biodiversity taonga, using reports from DOC on the status of at risk species and ecosystems.		The Board received reports on the status of regionally threatened species and ecosystems from the Department. A new threatened flora report was also received in 2022. The Board submitted on proposed enhancements to measures to protect seabirds from bycatch death in the surface longline fishery. The Board supported appeals and hearings against ongoing sand mining at Pākiri and against the proposed regional landfill at Wayby Valley, on biodiversity grounds. Shane Lavery represented the Board at the Hectors and Maui Dolphin North Island Forum in October 2022.
B	Work to understand the role the Board can play so it can collaborate with DOC, mana whenua and others to support the implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao - The Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy.		The Board sought updates from the Department on the implementation of the Strategy. Members began work on planning for an Auckland Biodiversity Summit in 2022, to bring all parties together in support of the Strategy in the region. However, the Board was unable to progress this kaupapa due to the disestablishment of the Department’s Partnerships team, who would have supported the Board to host this event. The Chair engaged with the Auckland Council mana whenua forum about the proposed event.
C	Support implementation of the Government’s “Revitalising the Gulf” plan by including it as a focus in the Board’s Communications Plan for 2022/2023, with the aim of increasing public awareness and support, emphasising protection of marine habitats, restoration and protected		The Board has supported this work in a range of ways, including submissions on the proposals for marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf, on the draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, and on draft guidance for identifying habitats of particular significance for fisheries management. The Board also advocated on proposed seabird mitigation measures in the surface longline fishery, sand mining off the Pākiri coast, calling for action on the risk of oil spill from the Niagara shipwreck, and the spread of the invasive seaweed <i>Caulerpa</i> in

	species.		the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. A number of marine related posts were put up on the Board's Facebook pages.
D	Participate in the resource consent process for applications for sand extraction at Pākiri, with the focus being to address threats and risks to marine ecosystems.		Nicola MacDonald, Kate Waterhouse and Nerissa Henry attended the Auckland Council hearing in August 2022 and spoke to the Board's submission in opposition to the consents for this damaging activity. Two of the three consents were declined but the Board was unable to join the appeal against the third because of a lack of access to legal resources.
E	Advocate for the protection of freshwater ecosystems, whakapapa sensitive catchments and freshwater species in the Auckland region through obtaining information about the implications of the NPS: Freshwater and related changes from DOC, Auckland Council or other sources.		The Board received a presentation from the Auckland Council on their progress towards implementation of the NPS: Freshwater in the region. Current efforts to protect freshwater habitats are inadequate given the dire state of freshwater bodies in the Auckland region, but follow-up has not been practical due to the devastating impacts of the Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. The Board is awaiting advice from the Department on which significant bodies of fresh water will be identified in the region for inclusion when Auckland Council implements the NPS: Freshwater.

2 **Whakamana Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi**

Me he manawa tītī, through perseverance in knowing and understanding the principle of partnership in the Treaty, we can truly move forward.

Kaihautu: Nicola Macdonald

Rōpū tautoko: Mervyn Kerehoma, Gael Ogilvie

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Enhance relationships with Treaty Partners by supporting the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Increase awareness of and develop Tiriti of Waitangi knowledge competencies of Board members, including but not limited to understanding Section 4 of the Conservation Act, decolonisation, co-governance, basic beginners guide such as pepeha, karakia, language familiarisation. Hold at least one hui on a marae and incorporate cultural competency elements in all Board workshops for the year.		The Board held a workshop with a focus on Treaty settlements in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, involving a discussion with Mike Dreaver, former Chief Crown Negotiator. The Board undertook an overnight noho marae jointly with the Northland Conservation Board in November 2022, on a Te Uri-o-Hau marae in Te Hana. The Board's ongoing intention is to appropriately reflect tikanga in its meetings and practices and aims to include matauranga Māori in every meeting and workshop. The Board has missed the guidance of a full complement of tangata whenua members for much of the period of this plan, due to the resignation of one member, and thereafter two of the Treaty positions being left vacant.
B	Prepare submissions as an interested party in the Environment Court Appeal on the Wayby Landfill consent application.		Following through on several years of advocacy against this proposal on biodiversity and other grounds, the Board joined as a party to the Appeal against the proposed Wayby Valley Landfill. The Board was unable to participate fully due to a lack of legal representation and resources. The Environment Court's decision is awaited.
C	Continue to work with Ngāti Manuhiri to deliver the Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island Conservation Management Plan (CMP), by monitoring and advising on its implementation, and by meeting with Ngāti Manuhiri to review progress.		During the preceding 2021/2022 year the Board had received a briefing on the Hauturu CMP from the Chair of Ngāti Manuhiri, Mook Hohneck. During the reporting year the Board received updates from the Department as part of its overall reporting on implementation of the Auckland CMS. The Board Chair, in her capacity as Acting CEO for Ngāti Manuhiri, worked closely with the Department on implementation of the CMP. The Board requested a report from the Department on the adequacy of biosecurity measures on Hauturu, which highlighted that there is room for improvement including better use of technology.

D	Continue to engage with mana whenua and develop understanding co-governance frameworks with a view to guiding the Board's mahi.		The Board received advice from the Department on whether it could elect co-chairs. The Department advised that the Conservation Act does not support this model currently. Board member Nerissa Henry is also a member of the Tūpuna Maunga Authority. The Board had an informative discussion with Mike Dreaver, former Chief Crown Negotiator, in a workshop which covered Treaty settlements in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, the significance of section 4 of the Conservation Act, co-governance arrangements, and the Motu Plan.
E	Incorporate Mātauranga Māori across all activities of the work plan.		The Board's ongoing intention is to appropriately reflect tikanga in its meetings and practices and aims to include mātauranga Māori in every meeting and workshop.

3 Mahi Kaupapa / Statutory Functions

Kia tupu, kia hua, kia puāwai, to grow, to prosper, to sustain

Kaihautu: Kate Waterhouse

Rōpū tautoko: Mervyn Kerehoma, Nerissa Henry

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Fulfil the board’s statutory functions for the Auckland Region.
- Contribute to any reviews of conservation management strategies and plans and support their progress effectively to promote strong conservation outcomes.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Monitor implementation of the 2014 Auckland CMS by seeking reports from DOC on progress, focussed on those actions and milestones where timeframes are not being met, and provide advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and DOC on significant concerns identified by the Board. Use this information to help prepare for the eventual review of the CMS.		Chair Nicola MacDonald has been working with other conservation board chairs to progress their shared concerns about board budgets and support. She has also engaged with the Chair of the NZCA about the need for a liaison member on the NZCA who actively engages with the Board (such engagement has not in place since 2020). The Board receives regular reporting from the Department on CMS milestones in the region. The Board notes that the CMS term was to 2024 and consider that it is no longer fit for purpose. The Board has provided significant feedback to this effect through its submissions on the proposals to amend the conservation management planning provisions of the Conservation Act, and during other review processes including the recent proposal for a partial review of all CMSs to address biking. The Board has noted the success of the Te Hiku CMS process and awaits next steps to ensure the Auckland CMS can be reviewed in a timely fashion.
B	Give advice to the Department on concession applications triggered to the Board for consultation, and other statutory consents.		The Board provided advice and comments on two land exchange proposals and one proposal for a reduction of the width of a marginal strip. It also provided comments on one concession application that was triggered to the Board.
C	Advocate to the Minister, NZCA and DOC for progress on the Conservation Management Plan for the inner islands of the Hauraki Gulf (the Motu Plan) and consequent compliance with DOC’s obligations under the Ngā		The Department has not yet met its obligations, and the CMP has not been started nine years after the passage of the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014. The Board has exerted as much pressure as is reasonable on this process in 22/23, given that the key obstacle is the lack of agreement about resourcing the work required and differing expectations. The Board has no ability to progress the Motu Plan

	Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014.			without progress towards an agreement about resourcing. The Board has previously advocated for progress to be made to the Minister of Conservation, the Director-General of Conservation and to the NZCA.
D	Submit and provide comment on matters that affect conservation in Tāmaki Makaurau, including national or regional policy proposals, draft strategies and statutory processes as required.			The Board submitted on the proposals for marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf, on the draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, on proposed enhancement to seabird mitigation measures in the surface longline fishery, on the management of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, on draft guidance for identifying habitats of particular significance for fisheries management, and on draft advice prepared by the Climate Change Commission. Chair Nicola MacDonald is a member of the Strategic Oversight Group for the Wildlife Act Review. At the regional level, the Board submitted against the Mayor’s draft 2023/2024 budget for Auckland Council, which if implemented would have led to significant reductions in conservation spending in the region. The Board received a briefing from Auckland Council about implementation of the NPS: Freshwater, which will be a significant piece of upcoming work.

4 Communications and Advocacy

Nau te raurau, naku te raurau kia ora ai te iwi, with your basket and my basket all will be well.

Kaihautu: Gael Ogilvie

Rōpū tautoko: Nicola MacDonald, Robert Bruce, Nerissa Henry

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Ensure more Aucklanders connect with and appreciate nature through increased awareness of the Board and its role in representing community voices

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Implement the Board's Communications Strategy over a suite of platforms including maintaining the Board's Facebook page, developing broader web-based communications, and issuing media releases on important subjects, to engage wider audiences and position the Board as a trusted and independent conservation advocacy body.		The Board maintained its Facebook page during the year, on which it posted about a variety of matters relevant to the Auckland region. The page had 606 followers, had a reach of 1,900 people, and there were 2,000 impressions. 89% of its followers were in NZ, of which 50% were in Auckland. The top post was "Have you seen a seal - here's what to do". The Board followed a number of related pages on Facebook, lending support to number of other causes including Forest & Bird, the Sir Peter Blake Marine Education Centre, Auckland Zoo, and Auckland Council Parks. Changes in the Department's support staff during the year limited the Board's capacity to do more eg. the Board did not issue any media releases during the year.
B	Develop and implement a social-marketing campaign with key messages aimed at connecting more Aucklanders to nature and the Board through promotional e-messaging.		The Board was not able to retain on contract a resource to support its Communications Strategy during the year, so it did not pursue a social media campaign. The Board did post on Facebook seeking to attract potential new members and sought to promote the visibility of the Board's work online.
C	Use the Board's reputation and channels to support DOC and Auckland Council in the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao in the Auckland region		The Board undertook initial work to plan for the holding of a biodiversity hui to support implementation of the Strategy in the region.

5 Wāhi Hononga / Cultural Heritage

Mō tātou, ā, mō ngā uri ā muri ake nei, for us and for the generations that follow.

Kaihautu: Kate Waterhouse

Rōpū tautoko: Shane Lavery, Nerissa Henry

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

Ensure protection and promotion of cultural heritage sites in the Auckland region.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Obtain an understanding from DOC about work programming for the management of cultural heritage sites in the Auckland region, particularly Māori heritage sites; and what is required to improve management of these sites		The Board received a presentation from the Department at its September 2022 meeting about the management of heritage on public conservation land in the region. The Board sought a further report on the status of heritage sites on public conservation land in the region from the Department, to understand to what degree heritage sites are at risk. As this was still forthcoming by year end the Board was unable to fully understand the implications for heritage outcomes in the region. Advocacy by the Board in the 2021/2022 year resulted in improvements to how the Department is managing the Te Matuku Historic Reserve, in response concerns brought to the Board by the local community and tangata whenua.
B	Maintain an understanding of Māori cultural heritage sites and the values mana whenua hold for their culturally significant places, and advocate for the protection of those values.		The Board ensured that its submissions and responses to issues had mana whenua mātauranga Māori threaded through them. Public agencies do not hold all information about cultural values and some knowledge is held only by mana whenua. The Board is growing its competency and its efforts to work with mana whenua and worked to support mana whenua positions when possible eg. in its advice to the Department on a concession application from the Tāmaki Yacht Club. The Board's ability to fully give effect to this objective was unfortunately affected by the number of vacant tangata whenua representative seats on the Board.

6 **Mahi ki te mahi / Working with the Department**

Me mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga o te katoa, working together for the wellbeing of everyone.

Kaihautu: Nicola MacDonald

Rōpū tautoko: Gael Ogilvie, Mervyn Kerehoma

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Foster positive working relationships and open dialogue with directors, managers and board support officers in order to engage strategically in conservation for the region.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Embed the principles of whakawhanaungatanga and manaakitanga in the working relationship between the Board and the Department.		The Board sought to ensure that the principles of whakawhanaungatanga and manaakitanga were reflected in the working relationship between the Board and the Department during the year. At times the Board has had robust discussions with the Department, for example about the lack of progress on the Motu Plan, but the Chair sought to operate under these principles even when discussing matters of concern to the Board.
B	Maintain regular feedback and monitoring of the Board's progress towards implementation of its Annual Work Programme, including regular review by the Board during the year. and supported with advice from Departmental support staff.		The Board regularly reviewed progress towards implementation of its Work Programme during the year. It was an agenda item for each of the Board's public meetings during the year, and was a focus for a number of its workshops.

7 **Mahi Kotahitanga / Working with other Conservation Boards and related groups**

He waka eke noa, we're all in this together.

Kaihautu: Nicola MacDonald

Rōpū tautoko: Kate Waterhouse, Nathan Kennedy*

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Board representatives to act as liaison members to attend and support neighbouring Conservation Boards (Northland and Waikato). Liaison members attend a minimum of two meetings per year per neighbouring board.		Kate Waterhouse attended Northland Conservation Board public meetings, although there were a reduced number of meetings due to adverse weather in 2023 and also due to low number of members. In November 2022 the Northland and Auckland Conservation Boards held a successful joint meeting and workshop at Te Hana. Up to the point of his resignation from the Board Nathan Kennedy attended meetings of the Waikato Conservation Board.
B	Maintain effective communications with the NZCA.		The Chair engaged with the Chair of the NZCA about the need for the selection of a liaison member on the NZCA who actively engages with the Board, as such engagement has not in place since 2020. The Board was disappointed that the NZCA liaison member was unable to attend any Board meetings during the year and feels that the connection with the NZCA is currently not as strong as it should be. The Chair attended the annual Conservation Board Chair's conference which is hosted by the NZCA, and used the opportunity to raise the Board's concern in that forum.
C	Develop a working relationship with relevant conservation-based councils, advisory groups such as Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee (ACPAC), Fish and Game Council.		There was no formal liaison with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee (ACPAC) during the reporting year. The Chair met with the ACPAC Chair to discuss liaison between the two entities. Kate Waterhouse maintained an informal relationship with ACPAC members due to her connection to the Great Barrier Island community. A joint meeting between the Board and ACPAC is overdue and will be scheduled as soon as possible. Shane Lavery maintained a watching brief on matters before the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council and updated the Board regularly.

8 Ohotata Āhuarangi / Addressing the climate crisis

Our climate is already changing, kei te panoni te āhuarangi.

Kaihautu: Gael Ogilvie

Rōpū tautoko: Gael Ogilvie, Mervyn Kerehoma, Rahul Chopra

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Develop and agree on the board's role to drive DOC actions that bolster conservation work based on a detailed understanding of climate change implications.		The Board has sought but not yet received reports from the Department about the implications of climate change on biodiversity in the region. The Board did receive information from the Department and the Auckland Council about the immediate effects of the severe weather events in early 2023, and the recovery from those events for which both agencies are taking a longer-term view in the context of climate change. The Board submitted on draft advice prepared by the Climate Change Commission in relation to the Government's second Emissions Reduction Plan for the period 2026-2030, in which the Board argued strongly for nature-based solutions. The Board Chair, Nicola MacDonald is a member of the Maori Climate Change Platform, led by Minister Shaw.
B	Where possible, actively promote the key connections between our climate and biodiversity crises.		The Board's submission to the Mayor's proposals for Auckland Council's 2023/2024 budget made clear links between conservation and restoration work and improved climate resilience. The Board's submitted on the Climate Change Commission's draft advice argued strongly for nature-based solutions.
C	Actively manage the Board's activities to reduce the negative climate impact of the Board's operations, including holding at least one meeting online during the year, and opting to hold all workshops online unless the subject matter requires in person attendance (for example, marae wānanga designed to further the cultural competencies of Board members under Action 2A).		The Board took opportunities to reduce its climate impacts whenever possible. This included holding meetings and workshops with an online option so members did not all need to travel, and providing shared transport for getting to meeting venues.

PART B: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

9 Risks identified from the Board's perspective

A	Board member capacity to deliver expectations in the Work Programme is limited by the high number of new members and the number of tangata whenua vacancies.
B	Board function is affected by the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on face-to-face meetings and effective interactions between members, especially new members.
C	The Board is unable to fulfil its statutory role in the preparation of the Motu Plan due to delays external to the board which prevent it meeting its statutory obligations and impede further progress.
D	The Board's minimal budget for communications support impacts its ability to deliver expectations in the Work Programme and is out of proportion to the expected level of public engagement with 1.6m Aucklanders.
E	The Board's minimal budget for and lack of access to legal support impacts its ability to deliver expectations in the Work Programme and is insufficient for the board to meet its statutory responsibilities.

10 Opportunities for conservation growth in the Board's rohe

A	Support DOC to work effectively with Auckland Council to progress marine protection using the refresh of the Auckland Unitary Plan covering the coastal zone.
B	Develop the Board's effectiveness and capability in working with iwi to further conservation goals through meeting the requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act.
C	Advocate for and support community-centric conservation and engagement with te taiao through breakthrough projects with diverse communities across Tāmaki Makaurau (e.g. Puhinui, Jobs For Nature projects).
D	Explore how momentum might be built with iwi, DOC and Auckland Council to better protect and restore freshwater in the Auckland Region.
E	Advocate for and support the successful implementation of island predator eradications on Waiheke, Aotea and Kawau to increase safe havens for burrowing seabirds and other endangered species close to Auckland.



This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Auckland Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation by e-mail aucklandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz.

